

## PHYSICAL ASPECT OF THE STATE.

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The physical aspect of North Carolina presents some rather curious features, to which Governor Swain used to delight in calling the attention of the senior class in the University.

Computing the entire surface of the globe at 200,000,000 of square miles, the area of North Carolina, 50,000 square miles, is one-four-thousandth part. Computing the land surface at one-fourth of this, or 50,000,000 of square miles the area of North Carolina is just one-thousandth part thereof.

In 1776 the area of the original thirteen United States was but little over 1,000,000 square miles, of which North Carolina composed the twentieth part. Our present area, except the recent acquisition of Alaska, is, in round numbers, 3,000,000 of square miles, of which North Carolina constitutes the sixtieth part. In other words, says the Governor triumphantly, the world might be divided into just a thousand, and the Union into sixty, States equal in extent to North Carolina.

Again, the total population of the globe is estimated by the best geographers at 1,108,819,000; the population of North Carolina in 1870 was 1,070,000, or almost exactly the one-thousandth part thereof. The average population of the globe is about  $22\frac{1}{2}$  souls to the square mile—that of North Carolina is very nearly the same. North Carolina, also, is situated very nearly in the heart of the north temperate zone by latitude, and thurmally is perhaps precisely in its center, as is evidenced by its flora and by scientific observations carefully taken. In this respect, and particularly in the character of its productions, it is the center of the American Union, notwithstanding it is not included by geographers in the old group of "Middle States." It is the dividing line between the great staples, and